

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Attorney General**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**KARL A. RACINE**



December 16, 2022

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Amendment Act  
of 2022

Dear Councilmembers:

I write to once again urge you to vote no on the District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Amendment Act of 2022.

There appears to be widespread agreement that the governance and operations of the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) need reform. The question is what responsible leaders who care about District residents do to address this situation. The newest iteration of the emergency Board reform proposal that the Council is considering next week will not—and cannot, by dint of its narrow scope and lack of public input—accomplish the necessary tasks of overhauling this troubled agency and supporting our low-income neighbors. Little has changed from the previous version of the bill. Like the previous version, this bill will have the effect of silencing Board members who have raised alarm about the significant problems at DCHA.

The failures at DCHA are horrifying. We have seen and read about them in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's thorough and scathing report, directly from those most affected, and in other reporting. Instead of addressing these issues, the bill before you goes in the wrong direction.

I encourage you to reject this rushed proposal and prioritize enacting a holistic new blueprint for DCHA through a process that includes robust engagement with affordable housing experts and public housing residents. To that end, I commend Councilmembers Silverman and Pinto for releasing a promising bill that could serve as the foundation for that work. This is an opportunity to make systemic, positive changes to DCHA to set it up for success for the long-term. District residents deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

*Karl A. Racine*

Karl A. Racine  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia